

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 EB-11 RSR-01 /120 W

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P R 060805Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5569

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL DANANG

UNCLAS SAIGON 14129

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT THIEU SPEAKS ON NATIONAL SELF-DEFENSE DAY
AUGUST 5

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: FBIS SO50850 AUG 5

1. WISH TO CALL DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO THE REFERENCED FBIS ITEM, WHICH TRANSMITS THE FULL TEXT OF A HARD-HITTING 17-MINUTE SPEECH DELIVERED AUGUST 5, 1973, BY PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU ON THE OCCASION OF NATIONAL SELF DEFENSE DAY. PRESIDENT THIEU ADDRESSED A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS RELATED TO SECURITY AND PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS.

2. PEACE NEGOTIATIONS: PRESIDENT THIEU WARNED HIS AUDIENCE THAT THE ONLY REASON THE COMMUNISTS SIGNED THE PARIS AGREEMENT IS BECAUSE "BEING UNABLE TO ACHIEVE A (MILITARY) VICTORY, THEY
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HAD TO." ACTUALLY THE COMMUNISTS HAVE NO GOODWILL FOR PEACE,

THEY DO NOT WISH TO END THE WAR. ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT THIEU, THE COMMUNISTS CONSIDER THE AGREEMENT AND THE "SOCALLED PERIOD OF PEACE AS A PERIOD FOR THEM TO PREPARE FOR ANOTHER INVASION IN THE DAYS AHEAD." IN PROOF OF THIS, HE CITED MORE THAN 20,000 COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS TO DATE AND THE "SERIOUS" INFILTRATION OF EVEN MORE "TANKS, HEAVY GUNS, AND PERSONNEL INTO THE SOUTH, (PLUS THE) EVER HEAVIER ATTACKS IN CAMBODIA AND LAOS." PRESIDENT THIEU ASSERTED THAT "EVERYONE CAN SEE (THIS COMMUNIST PERFDY)... ONLY THOSE WHO DO NOT WANT OR DO NOT KNOW HOW TO HEAR... (AND) SEE CLAIM THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE NOT VIOLATED THE CEASEFIRE IN THE SOUTH... WE SHOULD PAY NO HEED TO THIS ALLEGATION BY THE BLIND, DEAF, AND DUMB."

3. ELECTIONS AND NVA WITHDRAWAL: PRESIDENT THIEU OBSERVED THAT WHEN THEY SIGNED THE PARIS AGREEMENT, THE COMMUNISTS AGREED TO A GENERAL ELECTION. BUT HE ASKED, "ARE THE COMMUNISTS WILLING, TOGETHER WITH US, TO ORGANIZE GENERAL ELECTIONS? NO, THEY ARE NOT.... THEY REFUSE TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION. WHENEVER WE DEMAND THAT THE NVN TROOPS BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE SOUTH SO THAT THE SVN PEOPLE MAY BE FREE TO CONDUCT GENERAL ELECTIONS WITHOUT NVN PRESSURE, WITHOUT THE PRESSURE OF COMMUNIST TANKS AND ARTILLERY FIRE, THE COMMUNISTS PRETEND TO IGNORE OUR DEMAND."

4. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND NATIONAL

CONCORD (NCNRC): INSTEAD OF ALLOWING THE PEOPLE OF SVN TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION, PRESIDENT THIEU CHARGED, THE COMMUNISTS SEEK "ONLY TO ESTABLISH THE NCNRC OF THREE SEGMENTS IN ORDER TO IMPOSE A CAMOUFLAGED COALITION GOVERNMENT." DESCRIBING THE COMMUNISTS AS "TRICKY, BELLICOSE, BLOODTHIRSTY, AND CROOKED," PRESIDENT THIEU TERMED THEIR PROPOSAL TO SET UP THE NCNRC WITHOUT SERIOUSLY DISCUSSING GENERAL ELECTIONS AS A "FARCE." "UNTIL THE COMMUNISTS SPEAK OF FREE AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES, LET THEM NOT HOPE THE SOUTH WILL AGREE ON THE FORMATION OF A DISGUISED COALITION GOVERNMENT CALLED A TRIPARTITE GOVERNMENT, AND LET THEM NOT HOPE THE PEOPLE OF SVN WILL LET THEM ABUSE DEMOCRATIC

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LIBERTIES. LET THE COMMUNISTS SPEAK OF ELECTIONS AND SPECIFY THE DEADLINES FOR HOLDING THESE ELECTIONS, THEN THERE WILL BE EVERYTHING--THE NCNRC AND DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES. THE NCNRC AND THE DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES STIPULATED IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT ARE DESIGNED FOR THE HOLDING OF GENERAL ELECTIONS, AND NOT TO ALLOW THE COMMUNISTS TO SABOTAGE THE SOUTH, "THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED. "THEREFORE, WHILE SPEAKING OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES AND THE NCNRC, WE MUST SPEAK OF GENERAL ELECTIONS, WHICH

JUSTIFY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES AND THE FORMATION OF THE NCNRC."

5. ECONOMIC WARFARE AND THE THIRD VIETNAM: IN ADDITION TO THE TANKS, GUNS AND TROOPS WHICH THE COMMUNISTS CONTINUE TO INFILTRATE INTO SVN, PRESIDENT THIEU CHARGED THEY ARE ALSO SENDING INTO ZONES THEY CONTROL NVN CIVILIANS, WIVES AND CHILDREN OF NVA TROOPS, AND "GIRLS WHO WILL BE MARRIED TO SOUTHERN SOLDIERS" IN ORDER TO CREATE "A SO-CALLED THIRD VIETNAM". HE POINTED OUT THAT AS PART OF THE DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES BEING DEMANDED BY THE COMMUNISTS ARE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND FREEDOM OF TRADE BETWEEN ZONES OF CONTROL. THE COMMUNISTS "MALICIOUSLY" SEEK TO DISRUPT THE ECONOMY OF SVN IN ORDER TO BUILD UP THEIR ZONES. COMMUNIST TAX COLLECTORS ARE LIKE "LEECHES", THIEU SAID, SUCKING THE "LIFE-GIVING BLOOD OF THE SOUTH, OUR RICE, OUR MONEY." THE TAX COLLECTORS MUST BE ELIMINATED, ALONG WITH ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIST INFRASTRUCTURE. AN ECONOMIC BLOCKADE MUST ALSO BE IMPOSED ON THE ZONES OF COMMUNIST CONTROL.

6. ELIMINATE THE VCI:

IN CONCLUSION, PRESIDENT THIEU WARNED THAT THE ATTACK ON THE VCI IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER. THIS IS THE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PEOPLE'S SELF-DEFENSE FORCE. THE PSDF CANNOT BE DISBANDED NOW; IT MUST BE MORE ACTIVE THAN EVER. DO NOT BE "PASSIVE" IN THE STRUGGLE, THIEU ASKED THE PSDF, ASSURING THEM IF THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE VCI, THE COMMUNISTS WILL "NOT DARE TO LAUNCH AGAIN A MILITARY OFFENSIVE." THE ONLY WAY TRUE PEACE CAN BE ACHIEVED, PRESIDENT THIEU ASSERTED, IS THROUGH VIGILANCE AND STRENGTH.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, ARMISTICE, CEREMONIAL MESSAGES, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON14129
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730855/aaaaboqe.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 FBIS SO50850 AUG 5
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT THIEU SPEAKS ON NATIONAL SELF-DEFENSE DAY AUGUST 5
TAGS: PINT, VS, (THIEU, NYUGEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005